IN THE CLAIMS

Amend Claims 108, 110 - 112, 114, 116 - 120, 143, 158, 168, 185, 187, 193, 205, and 211 so that the claims are as follows:

1 - 107. (Canceled)

108. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing a spacer comprising a spacer wall having a face that has roughness which, as approximated by identical parallel cylindrical pores of pore diameter d_P, corresponds to a wall porosity of at least 10% along the wall's face and a pore height h_P of at least 15% of pore height parameter h_{MD} that equals $\sqrt{2d_P\mathcal{E}_{2DMD} / eE_{AV}}$, where e is the electron charge, $\mathcal{E}_{2DMD}$ is the median departure energy of secondary electrons emitted by the wall, and E_{AV} is electric field strength; and

positioning the spacer between first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display in which, during operation of the display, the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure as an electric field of average strength E_{AV} is directed from the second plate structure to the first plate structure.

109. (Canceled)

110. (Currently amended) A method ~~display~~ as in Claim 108 wherein the spacer providing act ~~step~~ entails forming the wall to comprise:

a wall-shaped substrate having a face along which there is roughness; and

a coating overlying the substrate's face and having a face that largely forms the wall's face, the roughness in the wall's face generally conforming to the roughness in the substrate's face.

111. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 108 wherein the spacer providing act entails ~~step comprises~~ forming the wall to comprise:

a wall-shaped substrate; and

a rough layer overlying the substrate and having a rough face that largely forms the wall's face.

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112. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 108 wherein the spacer providing act ~~step~~ entails forming the wall to comprise:

a wall-shaped substrate;

a rough layer overlying the substrate and having a face along which there is roughness; and

a coating overlying the rough layer's face and having a face that largely forms the wall's face, the roughness in the wall's face generally conforming to the roughness in the rough layer's face.

113. (Canceled)

114. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing a spacer comprising a main spacer body having a face along which multiple pores of average diameter of 1 - 1,000 nm extend into the main body at a porosity along the main body's face of at least 10%; and

positioning the spacer between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display in which, during display operation, the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure.

115. (Original) A method as in Claim 114 wherein the porosity of the pores along the main body's face is at least 40%.

116. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 114 wherein the spacer providing act ~~step~~ comprises:

furnishing a composite in which support and further material are interspersed with each other;

removing at least part of the further material from the composite to convert it into a porous body; and

utilizing at least a segment of the porous body as at least part of the main body.

117. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 116 wherein:

the composite furnishing act ~~step~~ entails providing the support and further materials over a substrate; and

the segment utilizing act ~~step~~ also entails utilizing at least the segment of the substrate as at least part of the main body.

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118. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 116 wherein:

the support material comprises ceramic;

the further material comprises organic material consisting of carbon and non-carbon material; and

the further-material removing act ~~step~~ entails removing at least part of the non-carbon material.

119. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 118 wherein the further-material removing act ~~step~~ comprises at least one of (a) etching the further material and (b) pyrolyzing ~~pyrolizing~~ the further material.

120. (Currently amended) A method as in Claim 116 wherein:

the composite comprises a gel or open network of solid material;

the further material comprises liquid; and

the further-material removing act ~~step~~ entails removing at least part of the liquid without causing the support material to completely fill space previously occupied by the removed liquid.

121. (Original) A method as in Claim 120 wherein the support material comprises at least one of: (a) oxide of at least one non-carbon element in Groups 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7b, 8, 1b, 2b, 3a, and 4a of Periods 2 - 6 of the Periodic Table including the lanthanides; and (b) hydroxide of at least one non-carbon element in Groups 3b, 4b, 5b, 6b, 7b, 8, 1b, 2b, 3a, and 4a of Periods 2 - 6 of the Periodic Table including the lanthanides.

122 - 142. (Canceled)

143. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

furnishing a solid composite of support material and further material interspersed with each other;

removing at least part of the further material from the composite along an exposed face of the composite to convert the composite into a porous body having a rough face in which there are depressions where the further material has been removed; and

positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the porous body.

144 - 157. (Canceled)

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158. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing a coating over a face of a primary body into which multiple pores extend along the primary body's face such that the primary body has a porosity of at least 10% along the primary body's face; and

positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by

the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the primary body and overlying coating.

159 - 167. (Canceled)

168. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

roughening an initial face of a primary body to form a rough face; and

subsequently positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the primary body and its rough face.

169 - 184. (Canceled)

185. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing a porous layer over a substrate such that the porous layer has an average electrical resistivity of 10^8 - 10^{14} at 25°C, an average thickness of no more than 20 μm, and a porosity of at least 10% along a face thereof spaced part from the substrate; and

positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the substrate and overlying porous layer.

186. (Canceled)

187. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing electrically non-conductive protuberances over a primary body to form a rough face from the protuberances and any adjoining exposed material of the primary body; and

subsequently positioning, between first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the primary body and overlying protuberances.

188 - 192. (Canceled)

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193. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

etching a primary body with etchant that impinges on a microscopically rough face of the primary body substantially non-perpendicular to most of an imaginary smooth surface that macroscopically approximates the primary body's rough face; and

subsequently positioning, between opposing first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the primary body.

194 - 204. (Canceled)

205. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

forming a precursor pedestal layer over a substrate;

providing particles over the precursor layer;

furnishing pillars over the substrate according to a procedure that comprises removing material of the precursor layer not covered by the particles such that remaining material of the precursor layer comprises pedestals respectively underlying the particles, each pillar comprising a different one of the pedestals; and

subsequently positioning, between first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the substrate and overlying pillars.

206 - 210. (Canceled)

211. (Currently amended) A method comprising: ~~comprising the steps of:~~

providing a layer of spires over a substrate; and

subsequently positioning, between first and second plate structures of a flat-panel display for which the second plate structure produces an image upon receiving electrons emitted by the first plate structure during operation of the display, a spacer comprising at least a segment of the substrate and overlying spires.

212 - 216. (Canceled)

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